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# The Canadian Railroader Weekly

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## SLAVERY BY INJUNCTION

**G**RIMLY, with inexorable precision, one sombre scene follows the other in this gloomy tragedy — the great coal strike. The newspapers, now wailing, now thundering, surcharge the atmosphere with wicked insinuation and bold and false recriminations. It is like the cry of the violins when the tragedy in the theatre unfolds itself. It is terrible this struggle, this industrial upheaval, this torment, this great living convulsion. Mirth has flown. You hear only the moans of the stricken millions and the crunching of the great, grinding machinery of the law.

On the one side are dainty-fingered men with small, smooth, velvety bodies actuated by big brains, cultured men rustling in the silks of refinement of living, very safe, and very secure from the poverties and the hunger tortures of existence, great captains in the huge industrial armies where sanguinary conflicts are viciously fought with pen and ink and a little paper. On the other side, among the opposing forces, are the miners, big, rough, hearty, truthful, simple, and useful men who live by brawn and not by brain, 500,000 such men and their wives and their children, some

3,000,000 souls who labor and live and work and die to keep us warm and comfortable in our northern homes all on the munificent salary of about \$650.00 a year. Back of this is a great reserve, alert and determined, 4,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor and their families, some 20,000,000 of humans, who stand quivering and tense in the noise and the shock and concussion of the impact between these groups.

God help us all if the real clash comes and it certainly will come, if not to-day or to-morrow, then on one of the early to-morrows, unless these men with their smooth velvety bodies and their big brains begin to use their brains.

All these forces of money and might and brain are afoot in the world because of an insignificant

fact, the issuance of an injunction. In human history it is always the pigmy thing which causes human monstrosities — monstrosities of bloody war and the travail of death. I refer to the stand taken by the mine operators that they will not arbitrate these disputes unless the men first return to work. What a solemn jest!

Suppose a contractor was building a giant structure and he had a disagreement with his employer over a breach of contract. Suppose he applied to the courts for an adjustment. Did you ever hear of a court demanding that the contractor return to work and complete his contract, before the case could be heard? There has never been such a case. Why? Because the proposition is so utterly ridiculous that it would be laughed out of court.

In this industrial dispute the miners and the mine owners cannot agree upon terms. Obviously there is but one thing to do. Negotiate a settlement based upon conditions that will be acceptable to both parties. If no agreement can be reached then let arbitrators make an adjustment. The point at issue is arbitration and the awards of arbitration. In God's name what has the subject of work to do with the issue?

Suppose that an employer with a factory is dissatisfied with the industrial market and commercial environments and determines to close his shop, throwing thousands of workers out of work. Did you ever hear of the court issuing an injunction restraining him because of the hardships that would be visited upon jobless men?

Is there any man of large brains living in this age who genuinely believes that whether men are satisfied or not, whether they are starving or not,



THE TEMPTER—"GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN!"

Locomotive Engineers' Journal.

(Continued on page 9.)



## Our OTTAWA LETTER

The final stages of the long drawn-out struggle over the Grand Trunk agreement are now in sight. On Monday the opposition on the third reading moved a series of amendments, not with any hope of carrying them, but with the idea of being on record in case the result of the arbitration and the whole transaction proved as unpopular and unsatisfactory as the C. N. R. finale.

Mr. Fielding moved that the agreement be referred to a commission of inquiry before anything further was done but his motion was defeated by 91 to 50.

Mr. Mackenzie King then moved that a provision be added that the agreement between the company and the government in its final form be submitted to Parliament for ratification. Speaking for a full hour, he asserted that from a business standpoint the transaction was without parallel in the history of Canada. The amount involved was one quarter of the national debt at least, yet the bill was being rushed through with unseemly haste. No information had been secured as to how the United States would regard the operation within their borders of a system of railways by a foreign government.

Turning to the financial situation, Mr. King asserted, what is probably true, that the government owes the banks the money now being raised by the Victory Loan and that a further loan will be necessary next year. The measure, in his opinion, combined all the defects of public and private ownership. The action of the Cabinet had been autocratic and arbitrary, and he warned them that Bolshevism had originated in such proceedings. It was a tolerably good speech and some fair points were made in it.

Mr. Meighen has had a magnificent field for the exercise of his special abilities in this controversy. He is a political advocate of the first order—give him a definite case to master and defend and he will perform the task with great thoroughness and efficiency. He has lived with this Grand Trunk problem for two years and as a result knows it from stem to stern, and he speaks with a confidence and authority on it which no one else can approach. He has great gifts of sarcasm and is "a master of flouts and jeers", but he often uses a sledgehammer to drive in tacks, which is to say he is as ready to turn his darts of contemptuous eloquence upon obscure backbenchers as upon ex-Ministers. Of course he has to, by reason of the ineptitude of his colleagues, of whom comparatively few graced the debate at all. It is rumored some of them have little enthusiasm of the project. But Mr. Meighen has added to his Parliamentary reputation

and has now obvious title to the possession of the foremost conservative intellect in the country.

He dealt severely with Mr. King, accusing him of resort to demagogic platitudes and hackneyed phrases. He harked back to the original G. T. P. legislation in 1893, which had left the country with a load of debt. The agreement in that case had been made without the sanction of Parliament. The country and the government could both put complete trust in the Chief-Justice of the Exchequer Court. To bring down the agreement to Parliament for ratification would be a waste of time. In due course it would be submitted, but the while it was being prepared the Government did not wish to mark time. Mr. King's amendment was thereafter rejected by 90 to 55, Mr. Johnston, Lost Mountain and Mr. Foster, York, voting with the opposition.

Then a western insurgent, Mr. J. A. Campbell, of Nelson, seconded by Mr. Maharg, surprised the House by moving an amendment that the sixty millions of 4% guaranteed stock whose obligations the government were assuming, outright, should be included in the arbitration. It was, he said, in the interest of the country that everything doubtful relating to the transaction should be arbitrated and there was some doubt that undue favoritism had been shown to a special class of shareholders.

Mr. Fielding advised the opposition to vote for the amendment and Mr. Meighen exhorted his following to vote it down on the ground that it would break faith with the Company. In his speech he made one ominous statement. He said, if the arbitrators found that the \$94,000,000 invested in the Grand Trunk Pacific by the Canadian people was lost for ever, the Grand Trunk would be compelled to pay a large proportion of these losses.

Why, pray, should not the Grand Trunk be compelled to pay every cent of these losses for which they are solely responsible? Is there any reason why this country should rush to the help of a railway company which has failed to make good and not to the assistance of every trader who fails in his business?

On this division the Government majority sank to 26, Messrs. Knox, Burnham, Johnston and Douglas as well as the mover and seconder voting with the Liberals.

Mr. J. J. Denis then moved that the award of the arbitrators be not approved till it was endorsed by the House and Mr. Parent followed with a particularly stupid and pointless amendment asking that the G.T. lines in the U.S.A. be not taken over. Both were defeated and

the last found four Liberals voting against it.

All four, Messrs. Pardee, Kennedy, McCoig and Euler hailed from Western Ontario and were cognisant of the hopeless folly of separating the Grand Trunk lines in Canada from their American connections. Evidently alarmed lest further foolishness of a similar nature be perpetrated, Mr. Robb, the Liberal whip, moved the six months hoist, which was defeated by 84 to 31. The bill then received its third reading at 2.30 a.m. on Wednesday morning and proceeded to the Senate.

There had been a lot of brave talk about what the venerable senators were prepared to do to the measure. Most of them have a hearty detestation of public ownership, and many have strong personal affiliations with the financial interests who have been so vociferous in their hostility to the Bill. The Government had secretly threatened an election if the Bill was defeated, in which abolition of the senate and railway nationalization would be the issues.

While the threat was not taken very seriously, many senators obviously did not like the idea of their venerated house of refuge becoming the direct object of popular attack on the hustings. So there was little expectation that anything very serious would happen to the bill.

It was almost diverting to hear Sir James Lougheed, who has long been one of the prime buttresses of the "interests" in Parliament, advocating public ownership when he introduced the bill. However, it should be recalled that in a previous speech Sir James had given it as his opinion that the time might come when it would be advisable to hand over our national system of railways to some great and powerful corporation to run for us and that in his belief we would be fortunate to secure its services. So Sir James' advocacy of the merits of public ownership may be accepted with some reserve.

After Senator Bostock had re-



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plied for the Liberals and criticized the measure, Senator W. B. Ross, of Middleton, a Tory, moved an amendment to the effect that consideration of the bill be deferred to another session. Senator Ross is possessed of as great capacity for public life as any man in either House; he is, of course, firmly conservative in his views, but he has a first-rate knowledge of law and constitutional questions and is both a student and a thinker. He entered into a careful examination of many aspects of the bill and criticisms which he offered were far more deadly than the whole advanced by the opposition members in the Commons. He spoke with knowledge and conviction. He disposed of their idea that the Grand Trunk were deserving of any special generosity. Reading extracts from the life of Sir Rivers Wilson, their President in 1903, he showed that they entered into the G.T.P. undertaking with their eyes open and he disproved the theory that the Grand Trunk had in the past been treated unfairly as compared with the C.P. R. and C.N.R. He showed that the bogey raised of the danger of the C.P.R. acquiring the G.T. was nonsensical, as the law provided that the consent of Parliament must be obtained for such a transaction. He pointed out how the Government were entering into the transaction with insufficient data upon what would be the effect of uniting the G.T. to the Canadian National Railway system in regard to freight from American lines. The G.T. carried a lot of American freight eastward because it reciprocated in sending westward freight over other American railways. If it had to send all its westward freight by the C.N.R. system, it will lose eastward freight from American lines.

He also unfolded numerous difficulties which might arise when our Government owned railways coming under the jurisdiction of at least seven state legislatures and the Federal administration of the U.S.A. He complained that no guiding principle for the arbitration had been laid down and said that there were as many ways of fixing the value of a railway property as of killing a cat. Parliament might well lay down such guiding principles. For these various reasons he was opposed to the

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bill and saw no reason for haste. In his opinion it might have done no harm to the Grand Trunk to have a receiver appointed.

Senator Robertson replied to this attack, but the amendment found strong support from the Government benches, Senators Foster, Nicholls, McLennan and White all speaking against the bill.

Senator McLennan urged great caution on the ground that it was, alas, only too obvious that the time was not far distant when a multitude of wild democrats and reformers, unversed in the arts of Government, would be in power at Ottawa, and when they ventured upon rash and radical experiments, as surely they would, and the sane people of the country began to protest and call for delay, these sane people would be rudely reminded how the Unionist Government in 1919 rushed through this Grand Trunk Bill without adequate consideration and consultation of the people. The Government were anxious about the division and took the precaution of filling two of the senatorial vacancies by appointing Col. Gerald White, late Tory member for North Renfrew, and that political derelict, Mr. William Proudfoot, ex-Tory member for North Renfrew. There is no criticism of Col. White's selection as he was always a moderate man and personall popular with all parties, but there is much laughter and, in Tory circles, indignation at the promotion of Mr. Proudfoot. In it is discerned the hand of the arch-schemer Mr. N. W. Rowell, who wields an uncanny influence in the councils of the government far out of proportion to his weight in the country, or the Commons. Mr. Proudfoot has long been his "poor silly vassal" and his translation to the Senate is probably the fruit of a bargain struck at the time of Mr. Proud-

foot's hasty conversion to Unionism. Mr. Rowell and his friends cling fiercely to the teachings of the Biblical doctrine that "the elect of the lord must not beg their bread in the streets". When a division was taken on the Ross amendment, it was lost by the narrow majority of 39 to 35. Eight Tories voted with the opposition, their names being Nicholls, Ross, Foster, Gordon, MacLennan, Montplaisir, Fowler and White and one Liberal, Senator Todd, was with the Government. Then the Government accepted an amendment that a limit of \$5,000,000 per annum should be fixed as an amount which the arbitrators could not exceed in giving their reward. This includes the \$2,500,000 to be paid as annual interest on the guaranteed stock. Senator Lynch-Staunton very properly tried to get the annual maximum cut down by at least half a million but failed. They also rejected a proposal that the guaranteed stock should come under the arbitration. The maximum of \$5,000,000 per annum is absurdly high and if the arbitrators give any such award to the G.T. shareholders there will be an uproar from Halifax to Vancouver beside which the outcry over the C.N.R. deal will appear a mere whisper. With this amendment fixing a maximum, the bill received its various readings and will now return to the Commons who will accept the alterations.

As soon as the Grand Trunk problem had been passed on to the Senate, the House of Commons turned its attention to the report of the Parliamentary Committee on soldiers' reestablishment, which had been engaged in an extensive inquiry for the previous month. The suggestions outlined in the report were numerous, but fell far short of the demands of the Great War Veterans' Association, while between them and the Flynn proposals a wide gulf yawned. Mr. Calder moved that the House adopt the report and urged this course in a long and dreary speech which was simply a rehash of the arguments advanced in the report mixed up with some rambling discursions of his own. There is nothing to convince or inspire in Mr. Calder's speeches; they are always pieces of special pleading to meet the needs of a political exigency and any sign of a grasp of wide principles or of larger views is invariably absent. He was anxious to get the report through and the question shelved and he hinted very broadly that if it was not accepted, the Government would find it necessary to resign. He rightly guessed that in present state of affairs the prospect of an election would strike a chill into the boldest Unionist heart.

He was followed by Major Andrews, a soldier-member from Winnipeg, who moved an amendment to the effect that the report be not accepted but that the more extensive proposals which the G.W.V.A. had put up to the committee should

be accepted and inserted in the report instead. He delivered a clear-cut speech intimating that the G.W.V.A. stood by this as their minimum demand. There then ensued a prolonged discussion, in which a large number of members took part. Government satellites like E. W. Nesbitt and Dr. Edwards defended the report and Sir George Foster reinforced the threat of resignation which Mr. Calder also reiterated. But there also developed an alarming amount of support for the Andrews amendment. From the Unionist benches Messrs. Cockshut, W. F. Maclean, Hocken and others intimated their dissatisfaction with the committee's proposals and signified if not their absolute approval of the Andrews amendment, a desire for better treatment for the soldiers and intended to vote for it. Messrs. Reid, Campbell and Burnham from the cross-benches took a similar line and Messrs. Fielding and Turgeon, from the Liberal side of the House, intimated that the opposition were for the most part ready to back up Major Andrews. There was a prospect of at least 20 bolters on the Government side and great alarm ensued. Mr. Calder hastily asserted that the door would not be closed to further good works for the soldiers and said

there would be conferences with the G.W.V.A. But it still looked as if the Government might be in danger of defeat and there was much scurrying to and fro to hunt up the laggards.

But Mr. Mackenzie King oddly enough, came to the rescue of the Ministry. He moved that the report be sent back for the reconsideration of the committee and injected a partisan flavor into his remarks. It at once roused antagonism and when Col. Currie, who is very unpopular with his party, announced he would support the King amendment, the Government was saved. Major Andrews seized the opportunity to withdraw his amendment and that of Mr. King was rejected by 100 to 35, a very large majority. The Liberal members of the committee declined to vote and others walked out.

The report was subsequently adopted, but any one who imagines that the problem has been settled labors under a deep delusion. Supply and prohibition are the only two items of importance which remain to be dealt with and prorogation may be expected early next week.

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## Wanted---A Guardian Angel

(Frances Fenwick Williams.)

Who does not crave a Guardian Angel? There are so many things we should like to be protected from. At heart we are all parasites and clinging vines.

But we must not cling to Mr. W. F. O'Connor!

Now when I say "we" I mean the men, women and children of Montreal.

Arnold Bennett in his clever "Buried Alive" alludes feelingly to a being who belongs to the most sensitive of sexes, and who has reached the most tenderly timid and wistfully affectionate of ages—and then goes on to explain that the being in question is a man of fifty-six! The world, dear reader—Canada—Montreal—is filled with innumerable specimens of just such clinging vines, who never dare to hit out for themselves, who habitually pay people to do their thinking and their acting for them, who waste their gentle lives in vainly longing for that highly desirable but purely mythical appendage—a Guardian Angel. A Guardian Angel who will perform their civic and other duties, who will shield them from all troublesome problems and all harassing situations, who will protect them from every ill including work.

They never find one.

And I do hereby serve notice on all concerned that it is particularly futile for any clinging vine of fifty-six or any other age to try to cling to Mr. W. F. O'Connor, who emphatically refuses to be clung to. "The Board of Commerce is not a Guardian Angel for the community", he has publicly stated when exposed to criticism because of his findings re milk in Montreal.

So there you are!

Mr. O'Connor is not our Guardian Angel.

Then who is?

Bear in mind, if you please, that we need a Guardian Angel very badly. The most important asset of our nation—the child—is being cheerfully consigned to the already over-crowded cemetery by such eminently respectable and efficient channels as the high cost of milk, the lack of public intelligence or pity, and the un-Guardian-Angelic qualities of the Board of Commerce. So it behooves to polish our metaphorical glasses, settle them figuratively—firmly on our figurative noses, look carefully about us—and try to discover who our Guardian Angels are.

A delicate and a burning question!

Are the milkmen, for example, our Guardian Angels? We must not shrink from asking this question even though we know that the answer must be in the negative.

The milkmen are not our Guardian Angels.

Are the Administrative Commissioners our Guardian Angels? Nay.

Are our representatives at Ottawa our Guardian Angels? Not so.

And we already know from unimpeachable and first-hand authority that Mr. W. F. O'Connor is not.

May I state, in passing, that I do not in the least blame Mr. O'Connor for eschewing with something like affright the role assigned. For Mr. O'Connor was a Guardian Angel to Canada once—and received a fitting reward. Do you remember George Ade's mournful statement—"Virtue is its only reward"? Well, that is the reward that Mr. O'Connor got. He did his duty like a man, was promptly hustled off the Food Board by his indignant confreres, and was never either defended or reinstated by the Canadian public whom he had done his best to protect. So I fancy Mr. O'Connor got his fill of Guardian-Angel-ship! I vision him as murmuring reflectively to his image in the mirror on the morning after ejection, "Let this be a lesson to

you, Mr. W. F., never again to dabble in public-spiritedness!" And apparently he never—but curb thyself my pen!

And let us stick firmly to our mutttons; in other words to the burning question of "Who are our Guardian Angels in this Matter of Milk".

Unhappy that we are! where shall we look for guardians, angelic or otherwise! Clingers of the vinest description, parasites of the most pronounced type, we seek vainly for something whereto to cling, for something to be parasitic to. And we find it not. And at the end we are driven perforce to emulate the wisdom of that Becky Sharp who, on discovering that no kind man-hunting Mamma appeared on the tapis to provide her with a husband, wasted no tears, flew into no rages, but simply and sadly said, "I must be my own Mamma!"

We must be our Mammams, dear public of Montreal!

We must be our own Guardian Angels or else make up our minds to forever go without these desirable appendages.

We must protect ourselves or go unprotected.

To rail against Boards of Commerce, Administrative Commissions, Houses of Parliament, is futile. We who created these institutions can bend them to our will—always providing that we have a will. But have we?

It has always been my contention that Government of any kind cannot rise above the level of the people whom it represents. (My opinion of Socrates, never low, rose by leaps and bounds when I discovered lately that he had made the same remark to Plato twenty-five hundred years ago!) I have always felt that there was but one trouble with our Governemantal bodies—viz., that they were representative; that they accurately represented our apathy, our ignorance, our inertia.

How absurd to suppose, for instance, that the condition of affairs here in our city whereby children are systematically thrown into the scrap heap could last five minutes if we really minded it. We don't really mind it! And so naturally the bodies which represent us don't really mind it either.

But if we did mind this condition of affairs—we could alter it. And the various administrative bodies elected by us, appointed by our representatives, would promptly do our bidding—did we issue our commands.

The population of Montreal is now about eight hundred thousand. Supposing that one hundred thousand and for one reason or another—there are probably one hundred thousand criminally inclined individuals in Montreal who would war against any measure that would save life by reducing profits—well suppose that one hundred thousand persons did fight against us. What of it? If seven hundred thousand persons in Montreal essayed the role of Guardian Angels to the children under sentence of death—that sentence would be commuted!

Let us consider ways and means a little.

The first duty of the self-constituted Guardian Angels is to prevent child-slaughter. Surely there can be no argument on this point.

All Montreal infants must have a sufficient supply of good milk to ensure them life and health. Again, can we dispute this?

In order to prevent child-slaughter the price of milk must be controlled and fixed at a much lower level than the present one.

There are no two ways about it. We know that present conditions result in death and misery to children. Consequently we must alter present conditions. If the Board of Commerce has no power to alter present conditions it must be given his power. If it has this power it must be made to use this power. The one thing that we cannot permit or countenance is the present state of affairs.

Now suppose we draw up a resolution to be signed by every society or body of any importance in Montreal, and forwarded to the Board of Commerce, to the President of the Cabinet Council, to the Deputy Minister or the Federal Board of Health, to the Administrative Commission and to our representatives in Parliament. Said resolu-

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tion to run somewhat as follows:—  
Gentlemen,

Since the war has made the Child the most important thing in the world; and

Since the Infant Mortality of Montreal has already made our city a byword among civilized communities and

Since milk is the one and only unsubstuteable food of the child; and

Since statistics show clearly that a large and increasing number of people are unable to provide their children with milk at present prices; and

Since such a state of affairs directly menaces the life and health of countless thousands of guiltless infants; and

Since it is intolerable that such a state of affairs be allowed to continue; and

Since the Milk Producers' Association of Montreal did not, in our opinion, produce any definite evidence regarding cost of producing milk which warrants the price being raised; and

Since the Milk Distributors were not required to produce their books and show what profit they had been making; and

Since milk is selling for 10 cents a quart in Ottawa and nobody is going bankrupt in the process; and

Since if conditions in Ottawa for producing milk are better than in Montreal, there is no reason why such conditions should not be reproduced here; and

Since one reason for the high cost of milk is the high cost of concentrates; and

Since producers of concentrates are able to show large dividends,

proving that they are making large profits; and

Since apparently no rigorous investigation into these concerns has been instituted; and

Since milk is being shipped to the U. S., despite the need here; and

Since bottle breakage and other losses cost \$70,000 annually; and

Since overlapping of distributing milk routes in Montreal adds to the expense and is unnecessary; and

Since these and other stupidities directly menace the lives and welfare of Montreal's infants, invalids, and nursing mothers; and

Since these things can be altered; and

Since we intend that they shall be altered; and

Since we pay the piper; and

Since we consequently have a right to call the tune:

#### THEREFORE

We, the undersigned, do hereby entreat the Board of Commerce and other lawfully constituted authorities, to put a period to the impending massacre of children by examining with the utmost care, into the causes which lead to the cost of milk-producing, and by taking such steps to lower said cost as have been found efficacious elsewhere.

\* \* \*

My suggestion is that all societies or agencies of any standing in Montreal unite for the protection of the child. Let them all draw up a set of resolutions similar to the above, sign it, and send it.

We may, I presume, take it for granted that the Montreal Council of Social Agencies will, through its various associated bodies make a strong and concerted effort to remedy conditions. But I suggest that

associations such as the Board of Trade, the Chambre de Commerce, and similar organization which, while not strictly philanthropic need not therefore be assumed to be grossly inhuman (unless proved so out of their own mouths!) be invited to lend their valuable aid in averting the threatened slaughter. I further suggest that any association which will not take steps to help us be urged to adopt Herod as its Guardian Angel; likewise that it be blackballed by all reputable members of the community.

Make no mistake. We are in earnest about this matter. We do not mean to see Montreal children exterminated. We have no quarrel whatever with the farmers or with the milkmen. On the contrary, we want to help them. We want them to get their fair profit; but we want conditions altered so that they can get a profit without filling the cemetery.

Last—but not least!—the clergy.

We beg that all the Montreal priesthood and clergy of any and every denomination shoulder this, their bounden duty, and join in signing the proposed resolution.

"There is no pain like the pain of a new idea!" says Walter Bagshot. It may be a new idea to many that cruelty to children is criminal whether it be committed individually, ill-temperedly and illegally by persons, or whether it be committed collectively, cheerfully and legally by communities. And this new idea may be painful. Nevertheless it is an idea and one which we must entertain. Whether children be murdered for military necessity reasons, as in Belgium, or for business reasons, as in Montreal—murder is murder. And the community that suffers that murder is, if



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not directly responsible, at least accessory before the fact. Please bear in mind the simple fact that a baby who does not get milk—starves.

"Alas that milk should be so dear and human life so cheap". And alas, that it should even be necessary to write this article.

Frances Fenwick Williams.

#### "TO THE MAN IN THE MOON"

I want a change of residence,  
And I hope to find it soon;  
I would take a chance of living  
With you, up in the moon.

So if you have apartments—  
Or a bungalow to let,  
Just call me on long distance,  
I am easy—quite—to get.

Please ask for F. MacDonald,  
The man who wrote the bull,  
About the nifty engineers—  
And the train they did not pull.—

The time the Prince of Wales came  
here  
Across the bounding main,  
And daffy went each engineer  
To pull the royal train.

Now when I wrote that sonnet,  
I thought that it was "jake",  
To advertise the enginemen—  
As well as Blue Sea Lake.

But man was made to blunder,  
And made to mourn and roam,  
Therefore you need not wonder,  
That I seek another home.

Too ready with an artful pen  
Has got me in all wrong,  
They're after me—those engine-  
men—  
And they are big and strong.

Now I'm N. G. at fighting,  
And at sprinting I'm a dud,  
So they'll get me for that writing—  
And my name will then be mud.

Fred MacDonald.



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## OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

Glasgow, October 23.

In trade union circles it is now generally known that a great consolidation of the forces of trade unionism and the co-operative movement is being effected. It appears that the alliance was worked in a small way during the recent railway strike, and had that crisis continued it was the object of the two bodies to utilize their common resources to the full in order to defeat the Government.

This revelation and subsequent development show an amazing record of secret diplomacy. The negotiations that have been going on between the general body of trade unions and the Co-operative Societies have in view elaborate arrangements for the contingencies that may arise in the event of another strike of the widespread character of the railway trouble.

This is clearly borne out in an interview given by Mr. Fred Bramley, assistant secretary of the Trade Union Congress Parliamentary Committee. He said that a basis of joint action was arrived at some time ago between the Trades

Unions Congress Parliamentary Committee and the Central Board of the Co-operative Union, one of the seven clauses being as follows: "The consideration of how far it is desirable and possible to ensure the unrestricted distribution of food supplies, or the payment of benefit, during important trade disputes, by issuing through the various branches of the co-operative movement food coupons, or loans from the Co-operative Wholesale Society's bank on the security of trade union assets". Advantage was taken of that during the strike in London to safeguard the interests of the trade unionists concerned.

"We also set out to secure", said Mr. Bramley, "that if the railway dispute was extended—if it developed into a general strike—we should avoid if possible the withdrawal of men from co-operative employment in order that the co-operative movement could be used as a food distributing agency on behalf of the workers. Local bodies are now being set up all over the country with a view to our plans being carried into effect".

Mr. Bramley repeated the fact that during the strike the National Union of Railwaymen utilized the Co-operative Wholesale Society's bank, special facilities being afforded by the provision of money that was backed by securities. Speaking of the future, Mr. Bramley explained that the plan is that trade union funds should be used for co-operative development, and that co-operative development should be utilized for the purpose of securing employment under guaranteed trade union conditions. "It is in order to make provision for strikes that we propose to

set up joint advisory councils all over the country", added Mr. Bramley. "If we devise ways and means of looking after ourselves, the object", he said, "is to develop co-operation not only nationally but internationally. Eventually, of course, we have in mind a Co-operative Commonwealth representing the entire community. "What about the private trader?", Mr. Bramley was asked. "The object is to eliminate the private trader", replied Mr. Bramley. He added, "It is peaceful penetration.

### Tram Workers' Wages.

The recent award of the Interim Court of Arbitration, raising the wages of tramway and omnibus employees generally by 4/- weekly, has precipitated a crisis which for some time past has been overtaking the urban transportation industry. The cost of reconstruction work has advanced to twice or three times the pre-war cost, and the Court's decision will add close on £1,000,000 to the annual wages bill of the industry. An immediate increase of fares will be necessary up to the statutory maximum, but even the increase in fares will not prevent some of the weaker transportations from having to cut their losses and go out of business.

### Agricultural Wages

A meeting was held at Kilmarnock between representatives of the Farmers' Union and Farm Servants' Union in Northern Ayrshire, at which the question of wages was under consideration. It was unanimously agreed to recommend that an increase of 4/- per week on the present conditions be granted to married ploughmen, 5/- per week to married byremen, and 1/- per week to milkers.

At the Hamilton half-yearly hiring fair, single ploughmen were engaged at from £34 to £37, all found; married ploughmen, 50/- per

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week, with free house and the usual perquisites; kitchenwomen, £18 to £21, all found; lads, £18 to £20; and girls, £12 to £15.

At the Stirling half-yearly feeling fair, hiring was slow, owing to the demand of the ploughmen for a regular nine hours' day, in addition to a Saturday half-holiday, combined with the wages asked. Married men were engaged at from 52/- to 54/- weekly, with free house, garden, and no assessments; while single men got up to £40 for the half-year, with board and lodgings.

### Scottish Miners

It was reported at a meeting of the Executive of the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers in Glasgow, that a settlement had been arrived at with regard to the Coal-burn dispute. Mr. J. Robertson, M. C., president, said he had interviewed the Coal Controller on the charges for miners' house coal, and the payment and wages to oncost men in connection with the five Delegates week. Delegates from twenty-one districts of Midlothian and Waddingtonshire attended a miners' conference at Dalkeith. Reports showed continued activity at all the collieries throughout the Lothians. Full time employment was being secured generally in practically all the mines since the strike of the railwaymen. There was a shortage of wagons at two collieries this week, which caused

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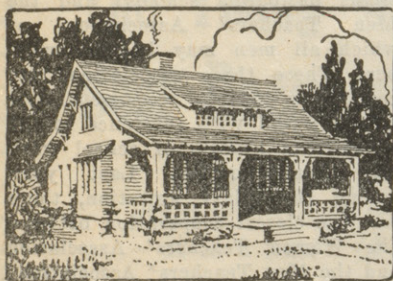


temporary delay. The meeting confirmed the appointment of Mr. Andrew Clarke as general secretary of the Lothians Miners' Federation in succession of the late Mr. Joseph Young.

Mr. Frank Anslow, the new president of the West of Scotland branch of the Association of Mining Electrical Engineers, at a meeting in Glasgow, said there was no doubt it was more difficult to obtain plant for collieries than for many other purposes, and that was a fact not without influence upon the small output being obtained at present. While admitting that it might be to the welfare of the country as a whole to have a Government controlled and standardized supply of electricity, it would be a mistake to ignore the factors which might have an adverse effect on the supply of power at the collieries.

#### Big Contract in Danger

Another big contract promises to be lost to Britain. American locomotive builders have stepped in and tendered for fifty locomotives for the Egyptian State Railways, which usually buy about four-fifths of their engines and rolling stock from this country. Sir William Lorimer, of the North British Locomotive Company, Ltd, told me in the course of a talk, that if the contract was indeed lost to Britain, in his opinion it could be due only to the fact that cost was higher here than in America, while there was also, the uncertainty regarding labor troubles. British manufacturers ought to have had a prior claim. If we were allowed to compete on equal terms with the Amer-



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icans, he added, we could easily hold our own. It is stated that if the contract goes out of this country it will mean the loss of some £400,000 in wages. The value of the order is at least £500,000.

#### Taxation of Land

Our present rating system was condemned as unjust in principle and injurious in practice at a conference in Glasgow, under the auspices of the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values. A resolution adopted on the subject declared that land should be taxed on its true market value, whether it was used or not, and houses and other improvements should be un-rated and untaxed. Mr. J. Dundas White, who presided, said Glasgow's rates would work out at probably more than 12/- in the £1. That meant that when new houses were built and occupied they would be subject to an annual fine of 12/- in the £1. Increased subsidies meant increased rents; and so the vicious circle continued. They were out to unrate houses altogether, so as to encourage building in every possible way. The great difficulty was to get land on fair terms. Mr. P. Wilson Raffon, M.P., said that if land rated at £50 per acre was required for public purposes, the owner should be paid £50 per acre, and not one penny more. If the true value of the land was £1,000 per acre, the owner should be paying rates and taxes on £1,000, whether the land was in use or not. Ex-Bailie Peter Burt poured scorn upon the members of Glasgow Corporation and local authorities generally. His remedy was to "sack the lot". The press was full of warnings that bankruptcy was before the public. If a private business were mis-managed in the same way the shareholders would very quickly change the directors and management. It was time the people took matters in hand.

#### Serious Loss to Glasgow

A glance over the Glasgow Corporation annual accounts reveals much of interest to the overburdened ratepayer. The lighting of "private streets and courts" cost the community £9,285 last year and returned only £1,830. In the previous year, when lighting restrictions were in force, the cost was £7,274. Lighting of common stairs is another expensive item. The expenditure was £77,366 and the revenue £27,816. The cleansing of private streets and courts from June, 1918, to May, 1919, cost the ratepayers over £35,729 and netted only a return of £21,510. Public weighting machines with an expenditure of £4,438 on wages, repairs, etc., brought in only something like £1,697. There is also a loss on the public halls administered by the Common Good. Those run by the Police Department show an equal loss. Of the ten district halls, with a total rental of £3,819, the cost of maintenance, repair, etc., was £8,007. Parliamentary and law charges provide another example of what looks like pouring money

down the sink. Under this heading we find, for Corporation Orders, general Parliamentary business, Police Court appeals, solicitors' fees, and expenses there, is a charge of £917, which is feebly balanced by the return of £30 expenses awarded against the respondents on appeal to higher courts against local verdicts.

#### Sheep Grazing or Sport

In connection with the grazing of Mar Forest, it was reported to a meeting of the West Aberdeenshire Agricultural Executive Committee that at the commencement of the season 5,000 head of sheep were put on this ground, and that later this number was increased to 7,000. The sheep had done remarkably well. It was further reported that several of the forests and grouse moors, which had been open for grazing during the last three years, were now to be closed for sheep, and were to be used entirely for sport. The Committee, viewing this proceeding with considerable alarm, decided to report the matter at once to the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, and to point out the importance of steps being taken to prevent the return of these moors to their pre-war purposes—the preservation of deer and winged game. The importance of the matter is evident from the fact that during the present season from 12,000 to 14,000 sheep were pastured on the forests and moors in the Western division of Aberdeenshire. The Board was also asked to make arrangements for representatives of the Committee to give evidence before the Departmental Committee appointed to deal with deer forests and grouse moors.

#### Railwaymen's New Aims

It is now learned that following on the completion of the negotiations on several outstanding points of the railwaymen's present. All-grade National Programme, another big national programme will be launched. The recent conference of Districts attached to the National Union of Railwaymen recommended all branches to "sweep the



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country", so that at the next annual general meeting of railwaymen at Belfast ground would be prepared for much more ambitious proposals. These are stated to include a six-hour day, a wage advance of £1 weekly, national and joint local control of all railways, and general control of railway industries in so far as they affect railwaymen.

#### Stirling Policemen

The new scale of pay for Stirling policemen has now been adopted by the Town Council. In future, constables will receive, including allowances, £3-16-6, and rise to £5-2-6 per week; sergeants will get £5-9-6 per week, rising to £6-2; and inspectors will be paid £310 per annum, rising to £350, with 11/6 weekly for boot and lodging allowances.

#### Joiners Strike

Kilmarnock joiners have struck work for an increase of three farthings per hour on their present wage of 1/9½ per hour, so as to bring them up to the Glasgow rate. It is not expected that the men will have much trouble in getting their demand met.

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## The Veteran in Trouble

IT is a strange but indubitable fact that although there are dozens of organizations which are now in existence to look after the returned soldier and his dependents in regaining a foothold in ordinary life, there is not one that has undertaken to help the veteran who lapses sufficiently from good conduct to confront a criminal court. After four or five years of being under strict discipline in relation to those around them, but on the other hand accustomed to violence, bloodshed and strewn corpses as their daily atmosphere, it naturally happens that a certain proportion of the returned men cannot fall into the routine of normal and peaceful conditions on returning home. The G. W. V. A. has frankly acknowledged that it cannot recognize those who thus disgrace it, though at first there was some attempt to grant free legal aid. There are those, however, who recognize that while the offence of a man cannot be altogether condoned merely because he has seen active service, yet the latter fact and the extent to which it may have influenced his mind and habits should be at least given due consideration. The feeling is that these afford in many cases just the opportunity for trying more modern methods of dealing with the wrongdoer, particularly in the direction of the probation system, under which the man is saved from imprisonment for what is his first offence, but this conditional on his reporting, not to a police officer, but to a person approved by the court.

At least one soldier-lawyer seems to share these views, for last week in the Court of King's Bench when two veterans were in the dock and undefended, Capt. R. L. Calder, M.C., stepped forward and undertook the task, advancing to the judge arguments on the lines here laid down. All honor to such a spirit from an ex-officer and lawyer. This, however, is only an individual case. What is badly wanted is that some organized effort shall be made to see that every veteran shall at least have counsel, and also that his case shall be viewed in relation to the upset of his normal life which was due entirely to patriotic motives.

## Railway Strike Results

THE results of the great railway strike in Great Britain were not as clear as they might have been at the end of the strike, each of the various interests and factions making as much capital as possible out of the confusion and the quibbling. Now that the dust has settled, it is possible to see that the main facts of the settlement were these:—

(1) That the Auckland Geddes proposals, put forward, not as a basis of negotiations but as the final offer of the government, have, as such, been torn up like a scrap of paper;

(2) That the question of standardization of wages, when resumed, will be discussed as a new question without reference to any previous negotiations that have taken place. This kills the suggestion of the 40s-minimum (\$8.60) which roused so much anger among the railwaymen.

(3) That the present war rate of wages shall remain the same until September of next year, instead of only till December 31 of this year.

(4) Finally, as long as the cost of living remains at its present height, no railwayman is to receive less than 51s (about \$11.00) a week.

It can readily be seen that the men have won here on the question of principle, since the dictatorship of Sir Auckland Geddes has been completely defeated, and his fixed minimum rejected. But the struggle over a decent living wage, though starting from a more favorable standpoint than before the strike, is yet to come. What has happened is that the men have won the first round in the struggle between the old system and the new.

## A TEACHER'S VIEW

The Editor, the

"Canadian Railroader",

Sir,

Your article in the issue of the 8th, asking "Will Montreal Protestant Teachers Join the Union Movement?" certainly gave the teachers something to think about. Without pronouncing on the main subject of the article, will you allow me to correct a misapprehension on the part of the writer with reference to the interior economy of the Montreal school system?

Evidently the writer's experience has largely been with autocratic boards; there are plenty such here in the Province of Quebec. It was only last winter that a board on the island of Montreal, hiring over two dozen teachers, flatly refused to listen to its teachers who asked for a salary scale with regular increases and the same rate of pay for teachers doing the same work; the teachers resigned in a body when their request was ignored. The same board inflicts over 50 children on some of its teachers who are doing work in the upper part of the course.

In Montreal, the system of cooperation between board and teachers is one of the most democratic I know of. And in most cities, the superintendent is an expert educationist, who has given his life up to this work, and was recruited from the teaching body. The teachers are represented by three organ-

izations, the Women Teachers' Association, the Headmasters' Association (comprising the male principals of public schools) and the Men Teachers' Association, of which all men may become members. These three associations are continually making recommendations to the Board with reference to the educational aspects of school work and administration. Last year, during the salary agitation, there was the closest cooperation between the Women Teachers' Association and the Men Teachers' Association; and the present salary scale is largely the work of the President of the latter association. Besides these regular organizations several times every year meetings of the principals are called together by the Superintendent. Very often a recommendation from one of the Associations is the subject for discussion at one of these meetings, and the resulting recommendations nearly always arise from the ordinary members of these meetings.

Practically every important educational change of the last few years has arisen out of the discussion at such a meeting. Often the Board seeks the advice of the principals for the purpose of getting the point of view of those who will be responsible later on for carrying out the change. Besides these organized meetings, once every year the Superintendent holds an informal meeting of the staff of each school when the teachers are invited to



speak on any subject they may choose; for instance a teacher may suggest some change, or propose for discussion some topic of general interest, on which she and the principal do not quite agree, and each will have a chance of speaking. These latter occurrences are rare, I am glad to say. But this meeting gives the individual teachers a chance to present their view point, and if necessary would be a guarantee against petty tyranny within the school such as is heard of in some places outside the city.

For years the Montreal Protestant Board seems to have realized the potential wealth of educational knowledge and experience that it has stored up in its teachers, and it has not been slow to develop it for the purpose of improving its schools. Nevertheless, this cooperative policy has not lessened the power of the Board to control the whole system—the control, however, must be easier just because of the cooperation.

There are some teachers of initiative who dislike the uniformity needed in a large school system; they often call it red tape. But this uniformity is meant for the protection of the children who move about very often; when they go from school to school, they fit in to the class doing the same work with a minimum of loss. And the carefully planned time table is a great help to the young teacher, if she would but think so; it represents the accumulated experience of thousands of teachers who went before them.

I thank you for this opportunity of explaining what might have misled some of your readers; the conditions of service described in the article, while true to type, do not apply to the system in vogue in Montreal. I also wish to thank you for keeping the matter of educational reform so persistently before your readers as one of the most important elements in a reconstruction policy.

Irving O. Vincent.

## Slavery by Injunction

(Continued from page 1.)

they should be compelled by the court of law to work continuously at whatever wages an employer chooses to pay? If you are fair-minded you will acknowledge that if a workman is compelled by law to work he cannot strike, and if he cannot strike then the workman of the 20th century is a slave, and as there can be no slave unless there is a master, then the employer is the master, and since there is no law that can compel the master to pay the slave sufficient unto the needs of life, then that workman is not even a chattel slave, which means that he is the most abject of slaves — a wage slave.

I wish to make this statement, to you of the upper class and you of the middle class — none of you are willing to subscribe to a doctrine of slavery as a solution to the present industrial disturbances. I say that none of you will subscribe to this doctrine over your signature. With all your desire for power and industrial tranquility, none of you will endorse any plan that makes slaves of your fellow men. You simply do not understand the mess into which you are rushing. You do not comprehend the far-reaching effects of legislation by injunction, to put the matter flatly.

I am sure that you must see the impending danger if the use of the injunction as an anti-strike weapon should become general. You will admit upon examination that the industrial serfdom which would follow in the wake of this dangerous method would produce a condition against which the moral fibre of every one in this great wide world who loves liberty and life would rebel with such irresist-

ible power that it would roll over the forces of reaction in a great tidal wave and destroy the masters even as the slave-holders were in the South destroyed.

Now that the strike is over officially, faith in the injunction will have been greatly enhanced but the wounds caused by this drastic legislation will never, never heal. Although a temporary difficulty has been adjusted the net loss is terrible.

Please do not misinterpret this article. In discussing the situation as bluntly as I have done it has been my hope to show you the fallacy of the method employed in this strike. I have made no appeal to the passions. The hope is that Canada may grow and prosper, that industry may develop, that happiness may still come to the people, that we may fulfil our destiny as Canadian people, free and removed from the death and destruction involved in the great industrial clashes of the hour. Extreme measures either in the camp of the employer or the employee could only bring misery and untold suffering. Let all profit by the mistakes of others. If reason and intelligence are employed there is no need for injunctions in Canada, and there will be no bloody wounds to heal. Let justice, human justice be our guide.

Sydney Smith says:

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—G. P.

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## AN OPEN LETTER

(Printed in the Ottawa Citizen.)

# To The Great War Veterans

By DAVID LOUGHNAN

Editor the Veteran; ex-member G. W. V. A. Advisory Committee; ex-member Dominion Executive, G. W. V. A.; ex-president Provincial Command of British Columbia.

Note: The views expressed herein are made solely on my own responsibility and do not in any way implicate or reflect official opinion of the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada. If unacceptable to the majority of my comrades I am prepared to resign from the editorship of The Veteran and follow, independently, the course which I consider inevitable—political action which will replace the present incompetent government with a National People's Party, representative of the common weal and uninfluenced by the prostitution of wealth and party intrigue.

As one of the three members of the G.W.V.A. Advisory Committee of the Cabinet, which resigned two weeks ago as a protest against the government's incomplete plan of soldier civil re-establishment, it has been apparent to me for some time that the final outcome of parliament's decision would be a widespread demand for political action

by veterans. The utter incompetence displayed by the government in dealing with this issue squarely and effecting a comprehensive and final settlement has hastened and increased the desire for direct action. The climax was reached last Friday when parliament shuffled its responsibility on to the Canadian Patriotic Fund and broke faith with our dead comrades by consigning their widows and dependents to the patronizing care of semi-official charity—until next year's session of the House. Parliament placed twenty-five or thirty millions dollars in the charity fund for the purpose of opening soup kitchens and preventing widows, orphans and crippled soldiers from starving this winter. This was done after a thousand assurances of sympathy, a thousand declarations of national bankruptcy, a thousand recitals of magnanimous treatment. And after all the canals, public buildings, railway stockholders and

other needy friends had been looked after.

To my mind there is but one solution, and that is to organize and prepare to make a clean sweep of the present House and substitute true representatives of the people. The democracy of the trenches was no vain illusion but a living reality which conquered death and remains with all who suffered in its cause. The torch which was lit in the hell-fire that illumined countless inky nights of horror and sacrifice short months ago is ours to hold high. We cannot break the faith for which our comrades died. We as veterans are not alone in our desire and determination to see representative and honest government. Neither do we alone suffer the burdens which have been placed upon the people as a whole by the incompetence of the present political aggregation—government and opposition alike.

In the new demand for political action there is, however, one great danger—the danger of attempting to build up a military class distinction or soldier bureaucracy. The soldier-citizen is not, and must not allow himself to become separated from his fellow-civilian into a class apart and distinct. Class legislation, or, as the Hon. Arthur Meighen is pleased to term it, "occupational politics", is responsible for the present state of public indignation and unrest. We have had far too many men in parliament representing privileged "interests" instead of their constituents; too many lawyers and too few laymen; too many manufacturers and too few labor representatives; too many political colonels and too few of the rank and file. If the soldier goes into politics he must represent civilian and veteran, for legislation, to be effective and just, must be in the interests of the state and calculated to benefit all. There is, after all, but little difference between the progressive aims of veterans, labor, farmers, and all who toil honestly either with brain or brawn. Why should they not adopt the motto of the cooperatives—"Each for all, and all for each"?

At the present time a small group of financial interests rule Canada. All who differ with their policies are labelled "Bolshevists", or "foreign-born agitators"—even though they served in the trenches. The reactionary group believe machine guns to be the best means of preserving the status quo. In anticipation of industrial trouble this winter they have quietly organized militia units in the various big centres. They intend to remain in the saddle and have laid their plans accordingly. At the next general election they will put up soldier candidates—men of the political general type, colonels and majors who may be depended upon to obey the party whip and keep their mouths shut. They have, however, reckoned without a greater force over which they cannot retain control—public opinion—which Napoleon described as "an invisible and

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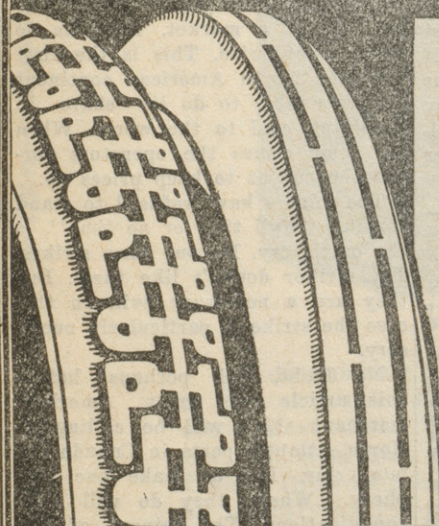
mysterious power which it is impossible to resist."

Public opinion will not be on the side of the veterans if they decide to separate themselves from the remainder of the population and force class legislation upon the country. It is not in their own interests to do so. The election of a soldier parliament would immediately result in a reaction of feeling against the veterans. That does not mean that no veterans should be elected to parliament, but that those who are so chosen should be carefully selected. There are twenty-one soldier members in the present House, but no one would have the hardihood to suggest that they represented the rank and file of veterans during the recent soldiers' civil re-establishment inquiry. The perspective of high commissioned rank naturally differs from that of the plain "Tommy". But it is the Tommy who needs re-establishment and not the major-general. I do not mean to infer that all officers think alike. A real man will play the game no matter how many distinctions may be showered upon him.

The events of the past twelve months have convinced me that the veterans of Canada must enunciate a policy and throw the weight of their strength into the political arena. They can no longer remain aloof. They have as plain a duty to perform as they had in the trenches, and the same principles to uphold—the battle of the oppressed. The people of Canada are sick to death of party politics and are looking for a lead. Why should not the veterans swing in behind a National People's Party which will eventually rid us of the present political incubus? Thereby we should assist in bringing about a co-operation and unification of interests which alone can produce national contentment and prosperity. An allied movement of this nature, wholeheartedly supported and unselfishly undertaken by the men whom the Hun could not lick, would prevent the disintegration of the Great War Veterans' Association, bind the people together, and cement national prosperity and contentment.

Proportional representation is the key to the situation.

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# MONEY

(Contributed)

Are we facing the facts when we talk about stamping out the red light district in Montreal? Are we facing the facts or talking to hear ourselves talk? I wonder? Have we started our work at the source? Is not prevention better than cure?

There are three questions if properly answered I believe would solve our red light district problem. I speak particularly of Montreal but the same thing may be applied to any other large centre in Canada or the United States.

Now I'm not going to preach a sermon, I don't know how to. I'm not going to take a text, I don't know one. I'm not even going to attack anybody's character but I'm not going to talk tame.

Let's state some facts and you and I consider them.

You can't run a red light district without women, any more than you can operate a steam engine without hot water. We will admit that. Everyone will. Thus far my argument stands.

Now let's be candid. A city like Montreal cannot exist in the present era of civilization without the presence of a few lewd women. Show me one of her size and I'll admit my error. But we have more than our share. We have women in our red light district who may yet be saved. We may all admit this. Again up to this point my argument stands. So far so good.

Did you ever ask yourself the question: What takes women into the red light district? Your wife nor my wife wouldn't be attracted there—now would they? Well, then what is the lure?

I'll tell you.

**MONEY.**

Who is there to refute the statement?

Again the argument stands.

Now having got the safety valves popping let's get down to facts. This is no time for kid gloves. I've read over the constitution of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association. It sounds like Utopia with a sprinkling in Heaven. No paper has yet published this sort of an article and if the "Canadian Railroader" fails to use this because it doesn't like its frankness, I'll throw the constitution into the garbage can—forget the Utopia and declare that the sprinkle of Heaven is a myth.

Now we understand one another all round and I shall proceed to my analysis.

The whole trouble with our red light problem in Montreal and all over Canada—and I have studied it—is that we have been scared to face it frankly. I'll knock the chip off you're shoulder at the outset.

Let me be frank in my own case

to justify my argument. I'd like to interview every woman in the red light district and get her story. If I did that I believe I would get the concrete solution of the problem. If I did that, I would be misunderstood. I would be frowned upon and society would say that my contact with the "Women at the Well" had made me unclean.

I have talked with some of these women as they have come before the Recorder's court here. Their cases do not differ from others of their kind throughout Canada. What did they say?

They wanted the money.

The entire business was revolting to them. That was an indication that their finer sensibilities had not yet been destroyed. Let me cite one case.

"When the kid died, I said to hell with decency". That was the preface of a story told me a few weeks ago. This is the story: A girl cruelly treated by her husband fled with her little two year old boy, to Montreal to be rid of him. She went to work in a prominent grocery store. The wages were not enough to keep the two in comfort. It afforded the bare necessities of life.

Then came the "flu". The kiddie contracted it. There was no money for the service of a physician. No money to meet hospital bills. No hope and hatred toward society. The kiddie weakened and died. "When the kid died, I said to hell with decency". That's the yarn she told. I believe it's true.

She became a profiteer in souls instead of a profiteer in bacon or butter or eggs or some of the more popular lines of profiteering. That woman is in Montreal's red light district to-night. She might have been saved. She might be saved even yet. Where is the man—I ask you—who says I he and who says that my analysis is wrong? Let him stand forth.

The woman I tell you about makes \$100 a week. In the grocery store going to grocery stores in particular is a price on decency to the woman who is disgusted, down and out. She makes many times the amount I do. Doubtless more than the majority of my readers do.

She is after the money.

She is in the class of those who might be saved.

If you haven't seen the reason why women go to the red light district, by the foregoing, then I will point it out to you. It's the wages.

The wages of sin is death. Very well. The wages paid by some of our employers is sin. I'm not referring to the ten dollars a week. There now. The result to a certain class of their employees is death.

I've talked strongly in this article. If I have offended anyone I don't ask their pardon. I have stated facts.

The nucleus of Montreal's red light district lies in her sweat shops. In spite of federal laws, in spite of provincial laws we have these sweat shops.

There are many girls in Montreal and other parts of Canada to-day who receive from six to ten dollars a week for their work. Would you expect your daughter to live on that and remain decent? Answer the question for yourself, you don't require that I should do it.

When the people who realize great profits, who live like lords and who ape decency but fail to show it through their pay roll awake to the fact that the young girl of to-day must live and clothe herself no matter what the wages, remember that they and they alone are providing recruits for the red light district of Montreal and every other large centre. Then and not until then may we be able to check the stream of women who went their way nightly toward these districts.

The time has come when we must quit quibbling with this question if we should save our sisters and our daughters. I have spoken bluntly and if I have hurt anybody's feelings, I reiterate I do not ask their pardon.

Someone has said, more distinguished than I:

"Man must work and woman must weep

"Through the seas be wide and the waters deep

"And the harbor bar be moaning".

Permit me to say:

"Man must work and woman must weep

"If the wage be small and the service cheap

"While the God of Lust be beckoning."

## DIGGING COAL and WAGES

(Contributed)

There is a big coal strike on in the United States. Where does the Canadian miner and the Canadian business man stand in the matter? In other words, where does the public stand?

So far as can be ascertained the coal miners of the United States are on strike because the operators will not permit them to work full time. There has often been the old cry against labor, "we don't mind giving increased wages out; when we do they won't work."

Now the boot is on the other foot. The miners are satisfied with the wage, but the operators refuse to allow them to work full time. The business men of Canada understand this situation. A day or so ago I was chatting with one of Montreal's most prominent business men and this is what he said:

"I hear the United States miners are striking because the operators won't allow them to work all the time comes the operators cur this strike. The Welsh miners struck for the same thing. It has come to a show down and now it is full time or no time. The miners are right."

That's the general impression among business men in Montreal. The world has been crying for coal for the past five years. There is no question of a market. There is no question of price. This is the first time the North American continent has been able to do its share in supplying coal to the world. When he come comes the operators curtail the output to keep prices up.

The miners have refused to stand for it. "Full time or no time", is the battle cry. No one likes strikes. The striker doesn't like them. But they are a necessary evil. In this case the strike is particularly necessary.

No doubt, and perhaps before this article sees print American merchant ships will be calling at North Atlantic ports in Canada for bunkering. Let us make one prophesy. When they do will arise complications. The miners of the Nova Scotia fields are U.M.W. men and when Yankee ships come to their ports seeking bunkering with their coal there is bound to be trouble.

The miners of the United States in this fight have the business men of Canada with them. There seems to be little question of that. Of the miners there is no doubt.

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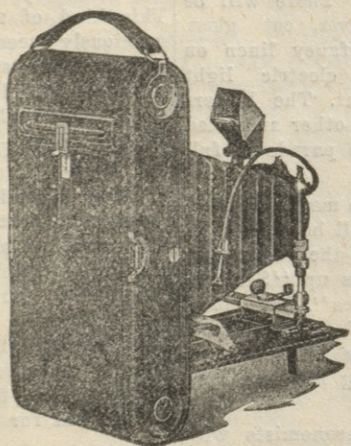
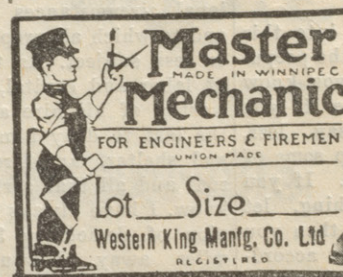
"MASTER MECHANICS" are sold on a new-garment-or-your-money-back guarantee, which guarantee, plainly printed in black and white, is to be found in the pockets of every suit leaving our factory. Look for this label on your next suit of overalls.

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## SIDE-LINES

THE statesmanlike and prophetic utterances of many of our politicians, and presidents of more or less important bodies, at annual banquets and like affairs, where said utterances are not intended for the baldheads present but for the lambs that read them in the papers later—and here's hoping that the reporters will fix the English and the logic—are of an uncommon high order, in that they are designed for all emergencies and to save the face of the orators, no matter what happens.

It is quite a treat for us ignorant people to read, once in a while, about some idiot who gets up on his legs and throws off his chest precisely what he knows and believes. He will never be an awe-inspiring statesman, or a magnificent figure at the head of a mahogany board table, but at least he is not in the clouds and has the marks of human origin.

I am thinking of going into this statesman and leader-of-the-peepul business myself. The less you know the more qualified you are. If you knew more, you would say less, and perhaps, indeed, develop some of the closeness of an oyster. If you do happen to know anything, let somebody else say it, and then you can approve or throw bricks according to the needs of the situation. All you require is a ponderous air and a few tricks of camouflage that wouldn't deceive your wife for a minute. If you make blunders, make them impressively, and no Doubting Thomas will dare to contradict you.

When I want to hear human beings talk as they feel on human problems I go to a labor meeting or to a meeting of social welfare workers. When stern duty forces me to other sorts of meetings where distinguished speakers are to perform, too often I come away with the feeling that this something of the sort of impression I have received:

"Ahem—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—ahem. I am honored to be asked to address this notable gathering, though not half as honored as you ought to feel at being addressed by me.

"We are to-day on the edge of a social upheaval, the changes in which must be approached and handled with that wisdom and statesmanship for which—I say it in all humility—for which I am noted, and in which I will tolerate no contradiction or amendment from those less informed, whatever their vanities may lead them to believe.

"I repeat, with all the emphasis that lies in my power, that we are to-day on the edge of a social upheaval, the like of which has been a semi-annual occurrence since the days of William the Conqueror, and perhaps before then, for aught I know.

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"I think that, after giving the matter much thought and reviewing it from all angles, as is possible only with a superior intellect like mine, that the world will retain its spherical shape during the coming year, always provided, of course, that there are none of those exceptional circumstances to encounter and to which all prophecies are more or less subject. As to the problem of labor and capital, the laborer is worthy of his hire and I would be the last to deny him food, clothing and shelter, and freedom for his soul and all that sort of thing, you know. I have always been the champion of democracy 3,000 or more miles away. I would give to the worker all that he asks, in words, in fine sentiments. They are cheap, and I have an abundance of supply. But to get to the crux of the question—what is to be done? Yes, what is to be done! Will you pledge yourselves to do it, standing together as one man? Of course you will! You don't know what you will do, but you will do it just the same, like the fine upstanding leaders of thought and action that you are!

"A wheat crop will be raised in the west next season by the combined agencies of nature and humanity, and there is a strong possibility—I might almost say, a very strong possibility—that it will be a bumper one, unless the weather and other circumstances are found to be working in the opposite direction, in which case low marks may be touched, and we may, indeed, weep in the face of utter failure.

"The transportation problem will be acute, a condition unfortunately inseparable from transportation conditions since Babylon, when, as you will all remember, the poet Euphrates epitomized the situation in that memorable stanza which begins with the noble words: 'Tekel, tekel, to horse, to horse!'

"The government of the country will be beset by difficulties due to the incompetence of the previous government, but which, as long as the Blank party remains in power, will be met and conquered with wisdom, sagacity and whole-souled devotion, and which, if a Blank party succeeds to power, may well

lead us to chaos and—I say it in all seriousness—to the verge of revolution and anarchy.

"In conclusion, let us be of good cheer in this vale of tears, let us face the future with that self-same Spartan courage as of yore, for, note it well, and let those who heed not beware, the sun still rises in the east and the little stars go twinkling, twinkling on. I thank you."

**PRODUCE more! Economize more!** I notice that various plentyrats are doing both and setting an example to the common herd. They'll have a sweet little eating function, for instance. They'll send out gold-edged invitations to a hundred other economists to come in their limousines and furs and diamonds. All the guests will sit down in evening dress in the blue-and-pink room. There will be five carloads of silver, cut glass china, flowers and fancy linen on the tables, and the electric light bill will be a fright. The butlers and men-slaveys and other animated ornaments will be on parade in full regimentals.

Then the poor little meal, prepared by a French chef, will be carried in on silver trays, while the Polynesian jazz orchestra strikes up "See the Conquering Hero Comes". The repast will be partaken of, with much gusto, as the society editress says in preference to using her own language.

After which the economists will have a revival of imported wine at ten dollars a whack. The tips at the close of the performance will enable the various tippees to raise the mortgage or go into the poolroom business.

It is said that no man is a hero to his valet. I will say more; that the valet is often the greatest hero of the two. He is the guide, philosopher and doormat of the great man, who uses his valet's work and ideas as his own, and who spends a good deal of his time thinking up new and violent forms of expression to use on or about said valet.

I am not thinking only of the chap who shaves the august chin

or lays out the July socks. I am thinking specially of secretaries, private, public and plain. A secretary who has the brains to get below the table when there is any credit going, and the brains to allow himself to be kicked below it when he gets somebody's initials twisted on a letter, is a jewel, usually underpaid. He can run anything from a society climber to a government, and keep the signals set and the safety cocks in order.

If all the secretaries in the world were in the American Federation of Labor and called a general strike some fine day, what a lot of large Roman-nosed gents, heavy in voice and often just as heavy in the head, would be cadging for jobs as day laborers; what a lot of society column ladies with the grand manner would be suffering from housemaid's knee!

There is a wee bit of sneaking recognition of the value of the secretary in some walks of life. Some few institutions even go so far as to admit that if it weren't for the secretaries, heaven help the institutions. But the general rule is to keep the secretary sweating in the background, while the Roman-nosed gents and the ladies with the grand manner do the strutting before the crowd, only unbending sufficiently now and then to hand the secretary another wallop. At the same time, they are praying in their hearts that the ass will be around at nine a.m., as per usual, to prevent any spilling of the beans.

There is, of course, a kind of secretary who wears capitals, as distinguished from the small "s" secretary, or the "sec-treas.", or the secretary who is just "per". This kind of secretary may have graciously accepted the secretaryship of some state department, for instance. But I am talking of real secretaries, little and big, with and without titles—the fellows who do the work.

When I read of the election or the appointment of a President, or a Chairman, or a Convener, and see his or her picture in the papers, completely surrounded by noble sentiments, I sometimes wonder what obscure and inoffensive clock-puncher has been yanked in as secretary to do the job and to hold out his hat for the dirt.

K. C.

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## The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

### Its Only Aim Is The Welfare of The Masses.

The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws, and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada exists to see to it that the workers by hand and brain are directly represented in the law-making bodies of the Dominion; to find, train and elect the right men of our own class in order to secure the kind of legislation that will protect and advance the interests of the workers.

It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

#### WE PLEDGE OURSELVES:—

To support all municipal, provincial and federal educational plans where the evident purpose is to raise the standard of education in enlightened and progressive ways; to present truthfully and fearlessly through the medium of Fifth Sunday Meetings and our own press, the "Canadian Railroader", the latest and most important political, social and industrial developments;

To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

"The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" is financed entirely by its members who contribute \$2 a year in membership fees. If a local has been established in your city \$1 remains in the local treasury and the other dollar is sent by the local organization to our Dominion Headquarters, 60 Dandurand Building, Montreal, Que. In case no local has been established in your community, send the membership fee of \$2 directly to Dominion Headquarters.

The funds accumulating in the Dominion Headquarters are used for political and educational propaganda; the development of the organization; the preparation of pamphlets and leaflets and the financing of the various political campaigns where favorable opportunities develop, to elect our candidates. The treasurer is under bond and the books are audited by a firm of accountants.

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I hereby make application for membership in "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada." I subscribe and agree to pay, while a member, the yearly fee of \$2.00 in advance.

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Make all cheques and money orders payable to "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada."

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